

Appl. No. 09/889,711

Amendment dated January 21, 2004

Reply to Office Action of 09/30/03

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 -21 are pending in this application and stand rejected. After entrance of this amendment, Claims 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20 and 21 are amended. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Office Action states that Claims 1-9 are confusing and unclear as to the components of the kit by Claim 1 being unclear as to the functional relationship of the kit components relative to each other and that Claims 10-21 are confusing and unclear by Claim 10 not being clear as to the functional relationship of the steps to each other in carrying out the method.

To clear up any confusion, applicants have amended independent Claims 1 and 10 and certain claims depending therefrom as requested by the Examiner. It is submitted that the claims now pending in this application, as amended herein, meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection for Claims 1 - 21.

As the claims are acknowledged by the Examiner to be free of the prior art, the present application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 - 21 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is hereby requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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